GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2606
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
DR. SATISH CHANDRA COMMITTEE
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States raised objections on the report of Dr. Satish Chandra Committee in connection with the introduction of multilingual system and to do away the question papers in English language in various examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission alongwith the details of objections raised by these States;

(b) whether the Union Public Service Commission has denied to accept the recommendations of Dr. Satish Chandra Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is bound to accept the views expressed by Union Public Service Commission; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government to evolve consensus among State Governments?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) : In so far as retention of English in examinations conducted by UPSC is concerned, there was a general consensus amongst the States/UTs in its favour and there was a general consesus in its favour when the re-considered views of States/UTs were obtained. However, as regards introduction of Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution as medium of UPSC examinations, the reconsidered views received from States/ UTs reveal that some of them e.g. Goa, Nagaland, Mizoram, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands are not entirely in agreement with the expert Committee`s recommendations in this regard. The objections raised range, inter alia,from on account of English being the only language used by the people of the State and that introduction of multilingual examination system would be disadvantageous to the people of the State compared to the existing system.

(b)&(c) :UPSC`s views received vide letter dated 26-5-1999 regarding introduction of multilingual examination system are at variance with Dr. Satish Chandra Committee recommendations. The Commission are of the view that printing of question papers in a number of languages will involve cordination of the work by a large number of persons risking exposure at all stages. The proposal would compromise on the confidentiality, secrecy and intergrity of the examination process. According to the UPSC, there will also be practical problems locating suitable experts and evaluators in the various languages. The Commission are also of the view that their past experience in conducting Civil Services (Main) Examination has showed that apart from English and to some extent Hindi, all other Indian languages are not generally offered by candidates as medium of examination. Certain languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Consitution were not opted for by even a single candidate.

(d) :The Official Language Resolution adopted by both the Houses of Parliament in January, 1968, inter-alia, resolved that all the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and English shall be permitted as alternative media for the All-India and higher Central Services Examinations after ascertaining the views of the UPSC on the future scheme of examinations, the procedural aspects and the timings. Thus the Resolution with which the proposal to introduce Indian languages as medium of examinations has got linked, also requires the Government to ascertain the views of the Union Public Service Commission on the future scheme of the examinations, the procedural aspects and the timing.

(e) :The Government had obtained the views of the State Governments in August, 1994. Since no consensus seemed to emerge, the States/UTs were again approached in December, 1996 for their reconsidered views so as to reduce the ambit of disagreement.